



14 May 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

Aviation Industry Programme - sponsored spaces

The Fantasy Wings programme aims to equip young people aged 13-25 with the skills and knowledge necessary to become pilots and succeed in the aviation industry. The programme runs in person in one of three locations (London, Birmingham, or Manchester) on one Saturday each month for ten months, beginning in October 2026

As in previous years, Soham Village College has been allocated 3 sponsored (free) spaces for an exciting opportunity for students interested in a career in the aviation industry. These spaces are limited to just a few hundred each year, and it is wonderful that we have secured these spaces again. This opportunity is for students who will be in Year 9, 10 or 11 from September 2026

The story behind how the programme was created by its founder Jackson Smith can be found here <https://fantasywings.co.uk/mission/>, with further details of this exciting programme available here <https://fantasywings.co.uk/>

Whilst the programme was originally set up to support young people from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic backgrounds and young women, I have been given the authority to offer it out to all students regardless of ethnicity or gender. If your child wishes to apply for a space, and in order to ensure that students taking part are committed to the programme, they are required to send an email to - noakhill@soham.org

The email should contain –

1. Student name and tutor group
2. A brief statement (no more than 150 words) **written by the student** detailing why they feel they should be awarded a space. This statement will be the main consideration in assessing who will be offered a space.
3. Confirmation that the student is able to commit to attend the 10 monthly Saturday sessions. in London, Birmingham or Manchester, starting from October 2026 (although there is a virtual option, past experience has shown that students attending in person gain the most benefit, **and so priority will be given to those students who are able to attend in person**)

At the same time, an email is also required from the child's parent/carer, confirming that you are able to support your child in fulfilling the requirements of the programme. This is to ensure that all participants are committed, and do not potentially take a space from other more suitable candidates.



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Please do note the level of commitment required to participate in this programme, both from a time and financial perspective. Previous participants' parents have highlighted the benefits of their children taking part in the programme (excellent insight into the aviation industry, improved confidence and other key skills) but have also identified the time and cost factor involved in attending each session. In particular, students in Year 11 should take into consideration the impact of GCSEs on their available time.

The deadline for the two emails to be received by me is **4pm on Wednesday 3rd June**. Any applications received after this time will not be accepted. All applications will be acknowledged on receipt.

All applicants will be contacted after the deadline. If selected, your child will be registered by the school, and then on-going communication will be between the programme organisers and student/parent.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Nick Oakhill
Trust Manager for Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance



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